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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/801,150	03/07/2001	Thierry Bedos	10984.3US01	4307

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EXAMINER

YIGDALL, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2122

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2004

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/801,150

Applicant(s)

BEDOS ET AL.

Examiner

Michael J. Yigdall

Art Unit

2122

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-39 are pending and have been examined. The priority date considered for the application is 7 March 2001.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 22 is objected to because of the following informalities: The phrase "as claimed 21" should be replaced with --as claimed in claim 21--. Appropriate correction is required. The claim has been interpreted assuming this correction to be made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-8, 16-24 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,536,035 to Hawkins.

With respect to claim 1, Hawkins discloses a software engine for application loading a software application onto a user's machine (see the title), wherein a core service of the application is loaded onto the user's machine to enable the application to commence to operate on the user's machine (see FIG. 1 and column 4, lines 10-12, which shows loading core classes or services to commence the operation of a program), the engine subsequently loading non-core

Art Unit: 2122

services of the application according to a priority order determined by the engine (see column 3, lines 22-26, which shows a software engine for preloading class files of non-core services during program execution; see also column 5, lines 57-67, which shows that the class files of non-core services are loaded in the correct order using a time-based priority order).

With respect to claim 2, Hawkins further discloses the limitation wherein the engine is part of the core service and is loaded with the core service (see column 5, lines 57-67, which shows adding the engine to the first portion of the program, i.e. so that it will be loaded with the core services).

With respect to claim 3, Hawkins further discloses the limitation wherein the engine commences operation upon completion of loading of the core service (see column 6, lines 4-8, which shows commencing operation of the engine immediately after the core services are loaded and instantiated).

With respect to claim 4, Hawkins further discloses the limitation wherein the priority order includes a top priority, top priority being given to any non-core service of the application required to be on the user's machine as a result of interaction with the application by the user (see column 4, lines 23-39, which shows determining the order in which classes or services are required for user interaction; see also column 5, lines 57-67, which shows that the classes or services are loaded using a time-based priority order; note that top priority is inherently assigned to the class or service required first).

With respect to claim 5, Hawkins further discloses the limitation wherein the non-core services are loaded in a manner controlled by the engine (see column 5, lines 57-67, which shows that the engine loads the class files of non-core services).

With respect to claim 6, Hawkins further discloses the limitation wherein the control takes into account user interaction with the application (see column 3, lines 57-65, which shows analyzing user interaction with the program).

With respect to claim 7, Hawkins further discloses the limitation wherein before loading the non-core services they are registered with the engine (see column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 9, which shows determining whether classes or services have been previously referenced; note that in order to make this determination, the classes or services are inherently registered with the engine when they are first instantiated).

With respect to claim 8, Hawkins further discloses the limitation wherein the engine checks the registration list of non-core services before loading a requested non-core service (see column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 9, which shows determining whether classes or services have been previously referenced, i.e. checking the registration list, prior to loading them).

With respect to claim 16, Hawkins further discloses the limitation wherein the loading is downloading over the Internet (see column 3, lines 9-21, which shows downloading an Internet application).

With respect to claim 17, see the explanation for claim 1 above.

Art Unit: 2122

With respect to claim 18, see the explanation for claim 2 above.

With respect to claim 19, see the explanation for claim 3 above.

With respect to claim 20, see the explanation for claim 7 above.

With respect to claim 21, see the explanation for claim 4 above.

With respect to claim 22, Hawkins further discloses the limitation wherein upon interaction with the application by the user, the application requests the engine to load at least one of the non-core services (see column 4, lines 23-39, which shows loading non-core classes or services based on user interaction), the engine checks the registration and gives the at least one non-core service top priority for loading (see column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 9, which shows determining whether classes or services have been previously referenced, i.e. checking the registration list; see also column 5, lines 57-67, which shows that the classes or services are loaded using a time-based priority order; note that top priority is inherently assigned to the class or service required first).

With respect to claim 23, see the explanation for claim 5 above.

With respect to claim 24, see the explanation for claim 6 above.

With respect to claim 32, see the explanation for claim 16 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 9-15, 25-31 and 33-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hawkins, as applied to claims 1 and 17 above, respectively, in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,430,570 to Judge et al. (hereinafter Judge).

With respect to claim 9, Hawkins does not expressly disclose the limitation wherein there is provided a cache into which at least one object for the application can be stored.

Hawkins does show that class files may be cached on a client machine prior to execution (see column 1, lines 34-40).

Judge discloses the limitation above in terms of storing class objects in a cache to reduce the number of redundant downloads, thereby improving performance (see application cache 52 in FIG. 2 and column 7, lines 28-36).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the caching features taught by Judge in the system of Hawkins, for the purpose of improving performance (see Judge, column 7, lines 28-29).

With respect to claim 10, Hawkins does not expressly disclose the limitation wherein the engine includes a memory management module that keeps track of usage of cached objects; the memory management module being able to de-allocate one or more of the objects.

Judge further discloses the limitation above in terms of an application memory manager that keeps track of cache objects and removes objects for garbage collection in order to free up space in memory (see column 8, lines 37-47).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the caching features taught by Judge in the system of Hawkins, for the purpose of improving performance (see Judge, column 7, lines 28-29).

With respect to claim 11, Hawkins further discloses the limitation wherein the cache is operative only when the application is on the user's machine (see column 1, lines 34-40, which shows that class files may be cached on a client machine prior to execution).

With respect to claim 12, Hawkins does not expressly disclose the limitation wherein the cache includes an object repository into which the at least one object is placed, and an object description.

Judge further discloses the limitation above in terms of caching class objects in a repository along with a description comprising an object reference (see application cache 52 in FIG. 2 and column 7, lines 45-51).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the caching features taught by Judge in the system of Hawkins, for the purpose of improving performance (see Judge, column 7, lines 28-29).

With respect to claim 13, Hawkins does not expressly disclose the limitation wherein the object description includes one or more selected from the group consisting of: object reference, object key, reference counter and time stamp.

Judge further discloses the limitation above in terms of maintaining an object reference (see column 7, lines 45-51).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the caching features taught by Judge in the system of Hawkins, for the purpose of improving performance (see Judge, column 7, lines 28-29).

With respect to claim 14, Hawkins does not expressly disclose the limitation wherein the de-allocation of one or more of the objects includes an arbitrary time offset.

Judge further discloses the limitation above in terms of continuously monitoring the free memory level and removing objects for de-allocation by the garbage collector as needed (see column 8, lines 43-47; note that continuously monitoring the free memory level inherently involves polling at an arbitrary time interval or offset).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the caching features taught by Judge in the system of Hawkins, for the purpose of improving performance (see Judge, column 7, lines 28-29).

With respect to claim 15, Hawkins does not expressly disclose the limitation wherein if the object description of an object in the object repository has a reference counter equal to zero for a time equal to at least the time offset, the corresponding object description is removed from the object repository.

Judge further discloses the limitation above in terms of maintaining an object reference to each class to protect it from garbage collection (see column 7, lines 45-51), meaning that the objects will be removed when the reference counter is equal to zero. Judge further discloses that the garbage collection will take place when a low or no free memory level is detected, inherently after an arbitrary time offset due to polling (see column 8, lines 43-47).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the caching features taught by Judge in the system of Hawkins, for the purpose of improving performance (see Judge, column 7, lines 28-29).

With respect to claim 25, see the explanation for claim 9 above. Note that Judge further shows that the class objects are stored in the cache for later reuse (see column 7, lines 45-51).

With respect to claim 26, see the explanation for claim 10 above.

With respect to claim 27, see the explanation for claim 11 above.

With respect to claim 28, see the explanation for claim 12 above.

With respect to claim 29, see the explanation for claim 13 above.

With respect to claim 30, see the explanation for claim 14 above.

With respect to claim 31, see the explanation for claim 15 above.

With respect to claim 33, Hawkins does not expressly disclose a computer memory management system for use with a software application, the memory management system including a cache, and wherein objects of the application are storable in the cache for reuse.

Hawkins does show that class files may be cached on a client machine prior to execution (see column 1, lines 34-40).

Judge discloses the system above in terms of an application memory manager (see column 8, lines 37-42) that includes a cache for storing class objects (see application cache 52 in FIG. 2 and column 7, lines 28-36), so that the objects may be reused (see column 7, lines 45-51).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the caching features taught by Judge in the system of Hawkins, for the purpose of improving performance (see Judge, column 7, lines 28-29).

With respect to claim 34, see the explanation for claim 11 above.

With respect to claim 35, see the explanation for claim 12 above.

With respect to claim 36, see the explanation for claim 13 above.

With respect to claim 37, see the explanation for claim 10 above.

With respect to claim 38, see the explanation for claim 14 above.

With respect to claim 39, see the explanation for claim 15 above.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Pat. No. 6,272,674 to Holiday, Jr. discloses a method for loading applications comprising Java class files.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Yigdall whose telephone number is (703) 305-0352. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

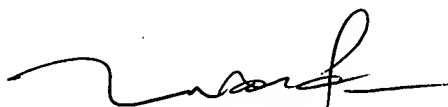
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (703) 305-4552. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MY

Michael J. Yigdall
Examiner
Art Unit 2122

mjy
February 18, 2004


TUAN DAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER